Ukraine

Alberta Relations

PROFILE

Capital: Kyiv

Population: 42.39 million (2018)

Language: Ukrainian

Government: Republic

Head of Government: Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman (since April 14, 2016)

Currency: Hryvnia (UAH), C$1 = 19.62 UAH (May 2019)

GDP: UAH 800.588 Trillion (2018)

GDP (PPP): 3.9 trillion International Dollars (2018)

GDP per Capita (PPP): Intl$8,698.7 (2018)

GDP growth rate: 3.29% (2018)

Inflation: 10.95% (2018)

Unemployment: 9.03% (2018)

Key Economic Sectors: coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food processing.
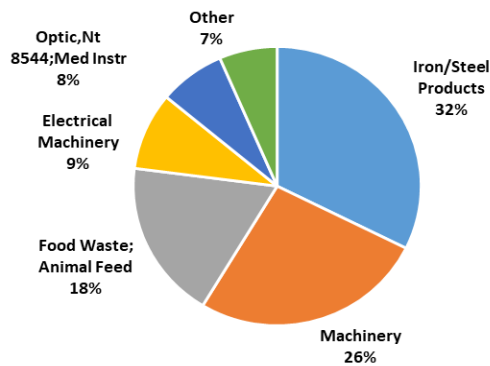
Sources: IMF, Global Affairs Canada

OVERVIEW

- The *Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Act* was passed in 2016, the year marking the 125th anniversary of Ukraine settlement in Canada. The Act states that September 7 of each year shall be known as "Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day". It also recognized the year started on September 7, 2016 as Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Year.

- Ukrainian independence in 1991 followed centuries of foreign rule by Poland, Austria-Hungary, Russia and the USSR.

- In 2016, Ukraine joined the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the European Union (EU), which aims to modernize and develop Ukraine's economy, governance and rule of law to EU standards

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has a long history of involvement with Ukraine and has contributed to building social, political and economic reform.

- The Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR), created in 2000, provides advice to the Government of Alberta on its relations with Ukraine.

- In 2005, Alberta welcomed Lviv as a sister province. This relationship was renewed in 2017.

- In 2004, Alberta entered into a sister province relationship with the western oblast of Ivano-Frankivsk, which was renewed in 2010 and again in 2017.

- During a visit to Alberta in August 2013, Governor Mykhaylo Vyshyvanyuk, and Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the City of Edmonton's wholly-owned corporation, Waste RE-solutions Edmonton, to assist the Government of Ivano-Frankivsk with establishing environmentally sustainable waste management systems.

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Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Ukraine 2014 to 2018 (Total Average $8.12 Million)

- Iron/Steel Products 32%
- Machinery 26%
- Food Waste; Animal Feed 18%
- Electrical Machinery 9%
- Optic,Nt 8544;Med Instr 8%
- Other 7%

Alberta Exports to the Ukraine (2009-2018)
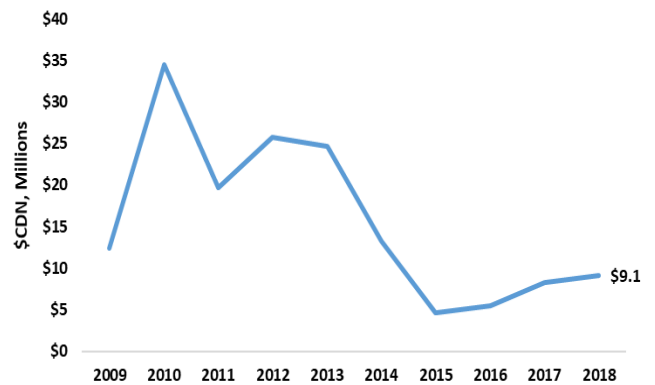

$CDN, Millions — $9.1 (2018)

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- The Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement entered into force on August 1, 2017. This represents an important milestone in the Canada-Ukraine bilateral relationship.

- Alberta exported an average of $8.12 million worth of goods to Ukraine from 2014-18. Alberta top exports included iron and steel products, meat, machinery, and medical instruments.

- Alberta's direct imports from Ukraine averaged $2.76 million from 2014 to 2018. Top imports included iron and steel ($1.2 million), machinery, live animals, and beverages. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

ENERGY

- More than half of Ukraine's primary energy supply comes from its uranium and coal resources, although natural gas also plays an important role in its energy mix.

- Ukraine consumed about 33.2 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas in 2016. Compared to 2015, gas imports fell by 32 per cent from 16.4 bcm to 11.1 bcm. No gas was imported from Russia in 2016, resulting in an increased reliance on EU imports.

- Ukraine's proven natural gas reserves are 900 bcm, representing 0.5 per cent of the world' oil reserves. As of 2016, proven oil reserves total 400 million barrels (bbl) compared to Alberta's 165.4 billion bbl.

- Ukraine is a major gas consumer. Natural gas demand fell 33 per cent from 2013-15 due to economic downturn, conflicts in Donetsk and Luhansk, and the annexation of Crimea which cut approximately 15 per cent of Ukraine's gas consumption.

- Ukraine has 0.4 billion barrels of crude oil reserves. Production has been steadily declining, averaging 31.9 thousand bbl per day from May 2016 – April 2017.

- Electricity production in Ukraine is estimated to be approximately 157.2 MWh in 2015. The country is heavily dependent on nuclear energy and its fifteen reactors generate about 55.7 per cent of the total electric power supply. Fossil fuel sources (39 per cent) and hydropower (4.3 per cent) generate the remainder of Ukraine's electric power, with marginal volumes contributed by wind generation. While previously a significant share of power generation came from natural gas, most fossil fuel power plants now use coal and oil for generation.

- Transit fees are a major source of revenue for Ukraine, and gas price (and debts) is also a source of contention with Russia causing multiple gas supply disruptions to Europe in the past.

- With Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and support of unrest in Eastern Ukraine, Ukraine is eager to reduce its dependence on Russian energy. This presents an emerging opportunity for Alberta private sector expertise in both conventional and non-conventional oil and gas extraction.

- Oil and gas, and in particular unconventional (shale) extraction, continues to be a sector of potential interest for Alberta companies who have capacity in exploration, equipment and services. Opportunity exists for exports of equipment (drilling), services and technologies, especially horizontal onshore and offshore drilling, technologies for reviving exhausted fields, on-site laboratory services, and investment projects.

- Ukraine's natural gas infrastructure is in need of major modernization costing around $4.8 billion in new investments, according to a feasibility study ordered by Naftogaz of Ukraine.

- Zhoda Investments, via its wholly-owned subsidiary Shelton Canada Corporation, has a 50 per cent interest in the Arkhangelskoye field. Their partner, Chornomornaftogaz, is the leading state-owned Ukrainian oil and gas company specializing in offshore projects. This license expires in 2038.

- The Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce has been active in promoting Alberta-Ukraine business links in the energy sector.

- Ukrainian Gas Industry Day was held at the 2018 Global Petroleum Show in Calgary. The event showed Ukraine's progress on energy sector reform, new opportunities for gas investors, suppliers and producers in line with CUFTA.

EDUCATION

- Ukrainian language and culture education have had a place in Alberta schools since 1902. The first provincial curriculum for Ukrainian as a second language was introduced in 1956.

- Established in 1973 the Ukrainian bilingual program was the first bilingual second language program created in Alberta.

- Thirteen Alberta schools are twinned with schools in Ukraine.

- Privately-run heritage schools have operated within the Ukrainian community since the turn of the century.

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Scholarship and Award Programs:

- Advanced Education has two post-secondary scholarship and award programs available for Ukrainians to study in Alberta and for Albertans to study in Ukraine:

  o Alberta Ukrainian Centennial Commemorative Scholarships were established in 1991 to acknowledge the significant contributions of Ukrainian settlers in Alberta. These scholarships provide academic opportunities for graduate-level studies in Ukraine and Alberta.

  o International Education Award - Ukraine was created in 2003 with an endowment in support of Advanced Education's international education strategy. These awards are designed to enable post-secondary students, post-graduates, professionals and scholars to undertake career-related training, research or study in Ukraine or Alberta.

- MITACS Globalink provides scholarships for undergraduate Ukrainian students to pursue research in Alberta.

- Advanced Education provides funding to Alberta post-secondary institutions through the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning which allows institutions to develop short-term study abroad programs in other countries including Ukraine.

International Development:

- Alberta's Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General was involved in the Canada International Development Agency's Ukraine Juvenile Justice Reform Project from 2010-2015.

- In 2013-14, $125,000 in emergency disaster relief funding was provided to assist the victims of Ukraine's civil unrest with medical, surgical and rehabilitation care for families of the deceased, injured and wounded.

- Ukraine has received funding from the Government of Alberta through the International Development Program in Alberta Culture and Tourism for projects focused on health care, at-risk youth and youth capacity building.

- Between 2008 and 2013 MacEwan University, in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Studies in Disabilities (Winnipeg), delivered the project "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine." The project entails working with ministries, universities, institutes for professional teacher upgrading, schools, community non-governmental organizations and parent associations to develop the capacity for Ukraine to offer inclusive education schools and classrooms to the public.

AGRICULTURE

- In October 2017, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Government of Alberta signed an MOU aimed at strengthening Ukraine's agribusiness sector.

- Alberta's recent agri-food exports to Ukraine have included processed animal feed and pork; however, opportunities exist for Alberta companies specializing in animal genetics, farm machinery equipment, technology and seeds for sowing.

- In 2010, four universities created the Prairie Agricultural University Initiative in Ukraine (PAUIU) and visited several cities in October 2010 and February 2012. Partners in the initiative are the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and MacEwan University.

FORESTRY

- The Government of Ukraine has adopted a strategy aimed at supporting domestic wood producers with access to raw materials becoming one of the major priorities in their forest sector. Canada is a net importer of wood products from Ukraine.

CULTURE, COMMUNITY, TOURISM

- According to the 2011 census, there are approximately 345,000 Albertans of Ukrainian descent. Just over 29,500 Albertans reported Ukrainian as their mother tongue.

- Alberta is home to Canada's only professional Ukrainian dance company, Shumka, which will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2019. Shumka is world-renowned, and its tours have included performances in the opera houses of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, and Donetsk in Ukraine. Along with the Alberta Ballet and Edmonton Opera, Shumka is a resident company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

- The Government of Alberta designated 2016-17 as Year of the Ukrainian Canadian to recognize the enduring impact of Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian community over the past 125 years. On September 7, 2017, the Alberta government celebrated the inaugural "Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day."

- Alberta's Legislative Assembly passed the Ukrainian Famine & Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act in 2008 recognizing Holodomor Memorial Day on the fourth Saturday in November.

- In September 2006, the Government of Alberta signed an agreement with Lviv, establishing a genealogical research service between Alberta and Ukraine to link their archival institutions and record depositories. Alberta provided $600,000 in funding to this project, which was completed in August 2018.

- Alberta established formal relations with cooperating museums and scholarly institutions in Lviv and Chernivtsi in the areas of folklore, ethnography, and genealogy.

- Since 1975, the province has owned and operated the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, a 130 hectare open-air museum east of Edmonton which portrays life in the pioneer days of Ukrainian settlement in Alberta. It cooperates with numerous museums, community organizations and academic institutions in both Alberta and Ukraine, facilitating various scholarly exchanges.

- The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta, created in 1972, holds an extensive library and exhibits historical artifacts, archival documents and photographs. In all, there are 6 private museums devoted to the preservation of Ukrainian history and culture in Alberta.

- WORLD-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, with daily programming in Ukrainian. CFCW has a weekly Ukrainian program promoting Ukrainian Canadian music.

- Through the Canada Ukraine Trade and Investment Support Project, Alberta Culture representatives recently met with representatives from Golden Gate Production studio located in Kyiv to discuss opportunities to co-produce film and television projects for Canadian and Ukrainian markets.

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IMMIGRATION

- Between 2014 and 2018, 2,146 citizens of Ukraine became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. Approximately 68 per cent were economic immigrants, including applicants, spouses, and dependents.

- Between 2014 and 2018, 600 citizens of Ukraine had Temporary Foreign Worker Program LMIA work permits comes into effect for Alberta.

- Between 2014 and 2018, 489 citizens of Ukraine had international study permits come into effect for Alberta.

RECENT VISITS

- On September 7, 2018 the Consulate General of Ukraine in Edmonton was officially opened.

- October 2017: Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Deron Bilous, led an oil and gas focused mission to Europe that included a visit to Ukraine.

- June 2017: Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada, Andriy Shevchenko, visited Alberta to attend the Global Petroleum Show in Calgary and participate in Ukraine Energy Industry Day.

- October 2016: Ambassador Shevchenko visited Edmonton to explore opportunities for furthering Alberta-Ukraine relations.

- August 2013: The Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Mr. Mykhaylo Vyshyvanyuk, visited Alberta to sign a LOU with the Government of Alberta, and a MOU with the City of Edmonton.

- April 2013: Members of the Ukraine Juvenile Justice Reform Project Judicial Working Group visited Alberta to learn about the Canadian youth justice system.

- June 2012: Justice stakeholders from Ivano-Frankivsk visited Alberta to learn about the Canadian youth justice system.

- October 2011: Justice stakeholders from Melitopol, Zaporizia Oblast, visited Alberta to learn about the Canadian youth justice system.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is Mr. Andriy Shevchenko.

- Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine is Mr. Roman Waschuk.

- Canada also has a Consulate in Lviv.

- The Consul General for Ukraine in Edmonton is Mr. Oleksandr Danyleiko.

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